

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-8 (canceled)

9. (New) An actuation device for a cooking appliance, comprising:

at least two cooking points;

at least one actuation element having a plurality of actuation modes at least for selection of said cooking points, for adjustment of a heating step, for activation and deactivation of said selected cooking point and at least one additional actuation mode; and

a sensor unit associated with said actuation element for sensing said plurality of actuation modes and said additional actuation mode of said actuation element.

10. (New) The actuation device according to claim 9, including said actuation element being moved in a predetermined direction to actuate said additional actuation mode and said sensor unit sensing said additional actuation mode.

11. (New) The actuation device according to claim 10, including said sensor unit sensing said actuation element being moved in a direction toward the front of the cooking appliance.

12. (New) The actuation device according to claim 9, including said actuation element having a pushbutton incorporated therein for actuating an additional mode.

13. (New) The actuation device according to claim 9, including said actuation element formed by a toggle switch having a gripping area with a diameter substantially in the range of between 0.8 centimeters and 1.2 centimeters.

14. (New) The actuation device according to claim 9, including said actuation element having a telescopic section incorporated therein.

15. (New) The actuation device according to claim 9, including said actuation element mounted on a cooking surface of the cooking appliance and said actuation element extends less than about two and one-half (2.5) centimeters over said cooking surface in at least one actuation mode.

16. (New) A cooking appliance, comprising:

- at least two cooking points;

- an actuation device for actuating at least said cooking points;

- said actuation device including at least one actuation element having a plurality of actuation modes at least for selection of said cooking points, for adjustment of a heating step, for activation and deactivation of said selected cooking point and at least one additional actuation mode; and

- a sensor unit associated with said actuation element for sensing said plurality of actuation modes and said additional actuation mode of said actuation element.

17. (New) The cooking appliance according to claim 16, including said actuation element mounted on a cooking surface of the cooking appliance and said actuation element

extends less than about two and one-half (2.5) centimeters over said cooking surface in at least one actuation mode.

18. (New) The cooking appliance according to claim 16, including said actuation element being moved in a predetermined direction to actuate said additional actuation mode and said sensor unit sensing said additional actuation mode.

19. (New) The cooking appliance according to claim 18, including said sensor unit sensing said actuation element being moved in a direction toward the front of the cooking appliance.

20. (New) The cooking appliance according to claim 16, including said actuation element having a pushbutton incorporated therein for actuating an additional mode.

21. (New) The cooking appliance according to claim 16, including said actuation element formed by a toggle switch having a gripping area with a diameter substantially in the range of between 0.8 centimeters and 1.2 centimeters.

22. (New) The cooking appliance according to claim 16, including said actuation element having a telescopic section incorporated therein.